

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A grate furnace with a grate includes grate steps made of grate elements lying next to one another. Every second grate step in the longitudinal direction of the grate can be driven for carrying out stoking movements and the grate steps in each case lying therebetween are stationary. Drive devices for driving the moveable grates are arranged in housing chambers and are in this way protected against impairment caused by material falling through the grate. A certain section of the housing chamber is open toward the bottom so that it is accessible even during operation of the grate furnace.